



Benelux Meteor

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Tragedy in Ghislenghien



The catastrophic explosion and fire from a ruptured gas main July 30 in Ghislenghien, Belgium, killed 16 and injured about 120, including host nation emergency personnel. Several U.S. military members supported emergency work at the scene of the disaster, and the Aug. 20 issue of the *Benelux Meteor* includes their story.

Quick Read

In General

Marriage workshop set
Building Stronger and Happier Marriages, a weekend seminar to enrich your marriage, Aug. 20-21, in Belgium. Limited to 10 couples. Reservations, DSN 423-5653 or 065 44 5653.

Run to win
The Army Europe Combat Cross Country Championship is Oct. 23 in Darmstadt, Germany at Babenhausen Air Field. Register Oct. 23, 9:30-10:45 a.m. at Babenhausen fitness center. Info: DSN 370-8243 or 49 6221 57 7499.

Belgium

Bus schedule changes
The Thursday schedule for the SHAPE/Chièvres shuttle bus has been changed. Check bus stops. The entire schedule is under review to meet customer needs. If you have any comments, send them via email to chet.coltharp@benelux.army.mil. Info: DSN 423-4514.



Keeping watch for those who watch us



What did you see?

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: Rick Haverinen

Secretary of Defense: Why We Fight in Iraq

More than 15 months ago, a global coalition ended the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein and liberated the people of Iraq.

As in all conflicts, this has come at a cost in lives. Some of your comrades made the ultimate sacrifice. For your sacrifices, our country and the President are deeply grateful.

In a free, democratic country we have vigorous debates over important public policy issues - none more heated than a decision to go to war. But this should not distract us from the mission at hand or lessen the magnitude of your accomplishments.

The threat we face must be confronted. And you are doing so exceedingly well. Indeed it has been an historic demonstration of skill and military power.

On September 11, 3,000 citizens were killed by extremists determined to frighten and intimidate our people and civilized societies. The future danger is that, if the extremists gain the potential, the number of casualties would be far higher. Terrorists are continuing to plot attacks against the American people and against other civilized societies. This is a different kind of enemy and a different kind of world. And we must think and act differently in this new century.

These extremists think nothing of cutting off innocent people's heads to try to intimidate great nations. They have murdered citizens from many countries - South Korea, Japan, Spain, the United Kingdom and others - hoping to strike fear in the hearts of free people.

Theirs is an ideology of oppression and subjugation of women. They seek to create radical systems that impose their views on others. And they will accept no armistice with those who choose free systems.

They see the governments of the Middle East, the United States and our stalwart allies all as targets.



U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld

Consider the background. In the span of 20 years, Hussein's Iraq invaded two neighbors, Iran and Kuwait, and launched ballistic missiles at two more. He employed poison gas against soldiers in Iran and against Kurdish villagers in his own country.

The United Nations and the U.S. Congress shared the view that Saddam's regime was a threat to the region and the world. Indeed, in 1998, our Congress passed a resolution calling for the removal of the regime. And over the years the U.N. passed 17 resolutions condemning Saddam's regime and calling on him to tell the UN about his weapons programs. He ignored every one.

Information gathered since the defeat of Saddam's regime last year confirms that his last declaration to the United Nations about his weapons programs was falsified. The U.N. resolutions had called for "serious consequences" should Saddam not comply. He did not.

The President issued a final ultimatum to Saddam to relinquish power to avoid war. Saddam chose war instead.

By your skill and courage, you have put a brutal dictator in the dock to be tried by the Iraqi people and restored freedom to 25 million people. By helping to repair infrastructure, rebuild schools, encourage democratic institutions and delivering educational and medical supplies, you have shown America's true character and given Iraq a chance at a new start.

But most importantly, your fight - and ultimate victory - against the forces of terror and extremism in Iraq and the Middle East will have made America safer and more secure.

You are accomplishing something noble and historic - and future generations of Americans will remember and thank you for it.

Donald H. Rumsfeld

This message to U.S. troops was released July 26.

IMA-E expands MWR, ACS services for families

HEIDELBERG, GERMANY - While some units are deployed and others return home, Soldiers, civilians and family members remaining in Europe continue to enjoy the same quality services they have come to expect in their military communities.

Families can feel confident that the range of Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) activities and family support services through Army Community Service (ACS) will continue in the months ahead. ACS and MWR activities are maintaining normal operations with no reduction in hours or services to date.

In fact, additional programs have been created for family members, especially in communities of

extended deployed units. IMA-E MWR, for example, initiated the 2004 Army Europe Summer Shout Out program for youths, featuring celebrity visits and clinics. CYS has expanded its programming of summer activities to include a variety of camps and expanded family support in terms of parents' nights out. Armed Forces Recreation Center in Garmisch in conjunction with MWR and the Army Community and Family Support Center is providing special affordable R&R packages for returning OIF Soldiers and their families.

Moreover, staffs in the 104th ASG benefited from an additional 22 counselors brought from the States to conduct training and group sessions with Family Readiness

Groups and with Rear Detachment personnel, as needed. he counselors covered such areas as stress and anger management, crisis intervention, depression, and more. They also offered support to the "care givers" in the community, i.e., the staff who have been working with families and children in the various community agencies.

Another 15 counselors will arrive this week and work through mid-August to assist with the reintegration of returning IAD Soldiers and to augment staff who remain on duty during the subsequent 30-day block leave.

Family members in Europe also have access to support to stay connected with their deployed spouses. One of the most impor-

tant means they have available to them is ACS. ACS provides a variety of support systems and programs to include the Family Readiness Group (FRG), FRG activities, the Family Readiness Liaison Officer (FRLLO), the Family Assistance Center (FAC) and support to the Rear Detachment Commander (RDC) at battalion and company levels.

The Family Readiness Groups (FRGs) are particularly important, as they provide information to keep personnel at home station with information about the deployed spouse and to assist with issues. The FRGs are composed of family members, volunteers, Soldiers and civilians from a particular unit or organization who come together to pro-

vide mutual support, assistance and communication. Extended families, fiancées, boyfriends or girlfriends, retirees, DA civilians, and other interested community members are also welcomed. Membership is automatic, and participation is voluntary.

Any changes that might be needed in future in terms of shorter hours or reduced services, due to usage, available manpower or other factors, would be reviewed closely and announced well in advance locally. It is the intent of the Army in Europe to minimize any such reductions and keep the doors open.

MWR and ACS remain accessible, dynamic programs to support Soldiers and families in Europe.

Family can help prevent childhood obesity

By Elizabeth Mammina

Rates of childhood overweight and obesity have increased to epidemic proportions, posing grave concerns for the health and well being of our youth.

Most recent studies indicate 10 percent of children 2-5 years old and 15 percent of children 6-19 living in the United States can be considered overweight. An estimated 26-41 percent of overweight preschoolers and 50 percent of overweight teens will continue to be overweight or obese throughout adulthood. These statistics speak volumes considering the steep health penalties now surfacing at younger ages equated with overweight and obesity, such as, orthopedic injuries, increased risk of high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and type II diabetes, which is no longer called adult onset diabetes.

In addition to the adverse physical effects, being an overweight or obese child or teen has also proven to have detrimental psychological and psychosocial effects. As if being a kid is not hard enough, overweight children are more likely to be discriminated against, have lower self-esteem, increased tendencies to experiment with cigarettes and alcohol, and have a reduced rate of college admission, leading to lower

wage earnings in adulthood.

Despite this grim news, the situation is far from hopeless. Overweight and obesity can be managed with information, family support, and development of overall healthy lifestyles and attitudes. Since eating habits are developed in early childhood, and because children with two obese parents are six times more likely to become obese than other children (one obese parent doubles risk of obesity in children), it is fair to say prevention goals are likely to be more successful if managed as a family team.

Although weight management can be a family affair, approaches should be carefully considered. Strict parental control over intake and providing individual meals for overweight and obese children may help parents feel as though they are playing a role in weight management, however these measures may actually be counterproductive. Through strict parental control children may not be able to learn how to make sound food selections of their own and may feel ostracized from the rest of the family, further jeopardizing self-esteem and long-term weight management success.

In place of focusing efforts on one child, many clinicians emphasize involving the

entire family in the development of healthy eating and lifestyle habits. Some suggestions include family meal planning, eating meals together, experimenting with new foods and recipes, limiting distractions (turn off television and radio during meal-times,) avoiding the use of food items as rewards, and family fitness.

Parents, when feasible, can also become involved with school organizations such as the Parent and Teachers Association to help influence the nutrition education and messages conveyed to not only their own children, but to the faculty and student body.

If you are interested in learning more about childhood obesity, approaches for weight management for children, general nutrition management, or just to find some fun recipes for the family, check out these websites: United States Department of Agriculture, <http://www.usda.gov/cnpp> or <http://www.nal.usda.gov>; Children's Nutrition Research Center, Baylor College of Medicine, <http://www.bcm.tmc.edu/cnrc/>; National Center for Health Statistics, <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs>; or Dole 5 A Day, <http://www.dole5aday.com>.

Mammina is a registered dietician for the WIC Overseas program in Hanau.

Thompson scores another win

Staff Sgt. John Thompson has now advanced to be selected Non Commissioned Officer of the Year at the National Capitol Region board held July 26-28 at Fort A. P. Hill, Va.

Thompson placed ahead of competitors in 10 other major commands to capture this most recent title.

A desk sergeant at the 80th Area Support Group provost marshal office, Thompson was selected NCO of the Year for 1993 in the 80th ASG, then NCO of the Year for Installation Management Agency, Europe, in June, then NCO of the Year for IMA worldwide in mid-July.

He will next compete for the ultimate honor, NCO of the Year for the U.S. Army worldwide in September.



Thompson

Course draws international lifesavers



PHOTOS: F. Neil Neeley

Sgt. Joseph Cicchillo, left, shows Danish element Master Sgt. Tom Vesterager how to use the fireman's carry to transport German Oberfelwel Mike Prohl. Vesterager and Prohl are both with the SHAPE IHSC PMO office.

By F. Neil Neeley

While lying on a stretcher, Sgt. Nathan Harmon flinched several times as Sgt. Joseph Cicchillo slowly inserted an intravenous needle into his arm. Cicchillo is a combat medic with the SHAPE clinic and Harmon was his student. Cicchillo was demonstrating the proper way to insert an IV for students of the combat lifesavers course. Just minutes earlier, Harmon, a military policeman with the 80th ASG provost marshal office, was joking nervously with his fellow students about finding "the rope." That's how medics refer to the main sticking vein in the arm.

"It's right here," Harmon said. "You'd better not miss it, I bleed easily."

Harmon was one of 14 fresh graduates of the combat life savers course held at SHAPE July 12 - 14.

"It's okay getting stuck," Harmon said. "No worries. I knew that Sgt. Cicchillo was a professional so I wasn't too much worried about him. It's the other guys I've got to worry about."

The combat lifesavers course teaches Soldiers to make split-second decisions and

to identify and treat possible fatal wounds when a medic is not immediately on the scene. The three-day course covered a wide variety of basic first aid knowledge and

treatment techniques for common battlefield injuries.

The Soldiers were instructed in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, splinting, transport-



Sgt. Nathan Harmon, 80th Area Support Group provost marshal office, winces as Sgt. Joseph Cicchillo demonstrates the proper way to stick an arm.

ing casualties using two man improvised litters and one man carries, IV therapy and a lot of other general medical knowledge. To complete the course each Soldier had to pass both written and practical application tests. At the end of the field test, they had to successfully administer an IV on another student.

"Really our goal is to get across how to do a primary survey on any type of trauma case so that Soldiers will know the proper techniques to splint a fracture or stop the bleeding of many different types of wounds," Cicchillo said. "Another big part of the class is that the students actually get taught how to do IV therapy on trauma patients."

The class had an international flavor because several students were from other NATO nations.

"Basically the class teaches you how to act and how to save your colleagues and do our best possible first aid in a combat situation," explained Danish element military policeman Master Sgt. Tom Vesterager. "Of course that's very important for us in this period we're in now, as everybody will need it."

Cicchillo explained why it's important for Soldiers to be able to take care of trauma in the field.

"We all know that with trauma, time is the key to saving anybody's life," Cicchillo said. "When you've got a combat brigade spread out over a 40 kilometer area there can be over 100 troopers inside each line company and there may be only two medics. That means that the combat lifesaver is going to get to that casualty on any battle field a heck of a lot quicker than a line medic will."

Since most of Cicchillo's students that day were MPs, Cicchillo explained why the class was especially important to them. "The main job for most of these MPs is convoy security," he said. "It is Army policy to have at least one trained combat lifesaver in each vehicle. If that convoy gets hit and you're one vehicle behind it, and the medic is ten vehicles behind, the combat lifesaver will always be able to get to the downed trooper quicker than that one line medic will be able to."

The course is taught at SHAPE once every quarter. Each unit commander decides how many people need to be certified. For further information contact Sgt. Joseph Cicchillo at DSN 423-5914.

Medics provide first response for patients at Bagram

By Pfc. Cheryl Ransford

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan, July 29 — Patients come to Bagram Air Base from as far away as Pakistan and Uzbekistan, knowing they will receive the best medical care available. A triage and treatment station is set up at the base's front gate to determine the severity of each situation.

The triage station evaluates patients and determines treatment according to medical priority, ensuring those with more serious afflictions are seen first.

Sometimes the initial care from medics assigned to the gate saves patients' lives. "Every day we see an average of six to seven patients, usually admitting one per day to the Egyptian hospital and one per week to the U.S. hospital," said Spc. Chris Grant, a member of the 2nd Bn., 265th Air Defense Artillery Reg., Florida National Guard.

Based on the severity of the injury or illness, the medics determine where the patient should be transported.

Each hospital on Bagram has different capabilities. In some cases, if patients have minor ailments, they will be treated at the triage station and released without being sent to a hospital, Grant said.

"We have seen people come though the gate with everything from body aches to congestive heart failure," said Spc. Matt Irving, also of the 2nd Bn. "We treat the ones we can and help others until further help can arrive."

The medics at the site have treated patients missing a limb due to an explosion, said Grant. The medics make sure the patient is stabilized and give what medical treatment they can.

"Some days we are busy, and others we don't see anyone," said Grant. "We want to be busy because it makes the day go by faster. But on the other hand, in our line of work, if we're busy that means people are hurt, and that's not what we want."

Throughout the day, Grant rotates trained combat lifesavers between the gate and the triage station to help treat patients. Not only does this help the patient, but it also prepares the combat lifesavers, non-medic soldiers who have received training in basic lifesaving measures, mentally for situations they may encounter in combat.

Once the medics finish seeing patients at the gate, they go to the hospital to check on any patients who have been admitted. "We like going to the hospital when patients have been sent in, not only to see how the patient is doing, but also to get feedback from the nurses and doctors about what was done right (at the triage station) and what could be improved next time," said Grant.

"Also going back and letting the patients see your face again helps them realize that the (American) soldiers do care about them," he said. Whether stitching a wound or putting cream on a cut, a little piece of you stays with them."

Being able to interact with the local population has helped these medics understand the value of their job. "This is my third deployment and I've never been anywhere that had this much interaction with the local community," said Irving. "You're able to see the looks on their faces change from apprehension to appreciation."

Before coming to Afghanistan, it was hard for some of the soldiers to explain to their families why they must be away for so long. But after being here just a short while, it's easier, said Grant.

"We have been here for three months, and I have treated as many people with gunshot wounds, burns and missing limbs, if not more, than I did in the four years I was on active duty," said Irving. "It's good to know that we have been able to help so many people in just a short amount of time."

Helping the locals, especially the children, and making an impression on their lives is one of the most important things the coalition can do, said Grant. "In a few years, the kids that we treat today will be the ones running the country," he said. "Hopefully, they will look back and remember all the ways the coalition has helped them and keep the country moving in a positive direction."

Army Pfc. Cheryl Ransford is a member of the 17th Public Affairs Detachment.

What did you see?

Focusing on terrorists before they focus on us

By Rick Haverinen

Force protection specialists in the BENELUX region are coaxing our citizens to report quickly and accurately when they see something suspicious going on.

"The general public needs to understand that when they call the military police, the MPs contact the 66th Military Intelligence Group and the host nation police," said Kim Perino, force protection program manager in the 80th Area Support Group. "If the report is delayed, and host nation police don't know about the incident until three days later, they're not able to actively pursue to find out why someone was sitting outside one of our gates or appeared to be taking photos."

Perino said there have been some frustrating incidents for investigators over the last few months when suspicious activity has been observed but the report has come in well after the sighting, or the details were sketchy.

"If you call immediately and the host nation police are able to respond and talk to that person, they might find sketches or maps or a camera with the film or digital photos and then we would actually be able to tell somebody was sitting there taking photographs of our gates and guard force," Perino said. "So it's really critical that we get the host nation police at the time the surveillance is happening, not three days later, and not with a vague description of, 'It's a blue van.' Imagine how frustrated the MI folks and the host nation police are, to get a report of suspicious activity with a blue van, and they have nothing to follow up on. There are thousands of blue vans around. That really does not give them the information they need in order to go out and pursue somebody."

Perino said that the surveillance phase of terrorist operations is when the agents are most vulnerable to detection and having their plans exposed.

"Without fail, any successful terrorist attack starts with surveillance," Perino said. "That's going to be our best opportunity to catch the bad guy. The surveillance phase is the most vulnerable for him. There's a whole lot of information that people can get from open sources, like newspapers, Web sites, pamphlets, and brochures that we put out. But at some point, after a target's been selected, they're going to have to go out and actually pull physical surveillance on that target, to figure out what the vulnerabilities are, to perhaps select a more specific target, or to pick a high-density area where a lot of people gather. And the only way they can really do that is by going and looking. That's going to be our best opportunity to catch those people, and part of that surveillance will probably include the use of binoculars, photography, video, note taking, and map annotating, and those are the kinds of things we're asking people to watch for."

Gail Holt, an 80th ASG security officer, said surveillance techniques can run the gamut of imitating everyday life.

"They could be walking in front of the installation with a baby carriage," Holt said. "It could be somebody who stops to fix a bicycle chain in front of the gate, walking the dog, asking for directions. A lot of people became immune to seeing the tail watchers who used to look for the planes coming in. And so people don't think twice about somebody pulling over to the side of

the road and looking at the airfield, but we don't have planes coming in there that often, so if somebody's sitting over there intent on watching what's going on, then that's the kind of information we need to know.

"A guy sitting in a car near the gate is not enough information for us. It's important when people do discover what appears to be someone surveilling, to notice what

"With a jigsaw puzzle, you start with the frame," Perino said, "and then that helps you fill in and flesh out the rest of the picture. So any little piece of information that somebody gives could actually add up to something else. And when we have good information that has a license plate number, the host nation police could run that number and find out if it's been stolen from another ve-

red flag with us when we've seen an increase in the reporting itself."

Bin Laden's al Qaeda terrorist group claimed responsibility for the March 11 commuter train bombing in Madrid in which 202 people were killed.

The commission investigating the 9-11 terrorist attacks in the U.S. released its report in late July and detailed failures of U.S.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: Rick Haverinen

A force protection program is greatly enhanced when all members of the community and workforce are able to spot suspicious behavior, such as surveillance, and report it immediately to military police with thorough details.

kind of car it is, the make and the model, the color, information about who's actually sitting in there. If they can, report exactly what the person is doing. Is this person talking on a cell phone? Does he or she appear to be writing? The person who's fixing the chain on the bicycle, does he really look like he's working or just pretending to go through the motions? So it's really important that people are aware of what's going on around them and they take away specific details to pass on in a timely manner. Don't wait."



Perino

Intelligence specialists divide physical characteristics of what might be observed into two categories, permanent and changeable features. "One of the things that you should train yourself to notice first is permanent characteristics," Perino said. "For instance on a vehicle, a permanent characteristic would be that it's a four-door sedan. A four-door sedan is always going to be a four-door sedan. It can't change to a two-door sedan. We can change the license plate on that, we can actually change the color of the vehicle, but you're not going to change the fact that it's a four-door Ford. So that would be a permanent characteristic. And then start looking at the changeable characteristics, like the license plate number. It's important to get license plate numbers because it helps find out whether that plate belongs to that vehicle. If not, there's a red flag right there. So first you look for the permanent characteristics and then you look for the changeable characteristics of a vehicle."

A terrorist group might have a pool of several cars and mix and match them with several stolen license plates.

Or they could say, 'Hey, different car, same stolen license plate,' at a different area on the base or at a different gate number than we've seen. So all of that can add up, or it might even bring us back to relationships between different people, once they know who the people are. Maybe terrorist number one is the second cousin of the person who was pulling surveillance the second time. So they could actually build relationships there. And that's something that the public isn't going to necessarily know, when they report that. But it all helps fill in the puzzle."

How humans appear can have the same categories.

"Look for general height," Perino said. "You can wear flat shoes and lose a couple of inches, or wear high heels and gain a couple inches but a person's general build, their height, is pretty permanent and so is gender. Hair length and hair color are changeable features, facial hair is a changeable feature and so are clothes."

"Another permanent feature is ethnicity, for the most part," Holt said. "If you're Caucasian you're Caucasian if you're Asian you're Asian. Those are things that you can't necessarily change, depending on the sophistication of who's doing the surveilling act."

Several incidents mean it's a good time to pay attention to what we see.

"July 15 was the end of the ultimatum that Osama Bin Laden gave to the European nations to pull out of Iraq," Perino said, "and we have had an increase in suspicious activity reporting. That's not to say that all of those have panned out to actually be suspicious activity, but it should always raise a

intelligence agencies being able to figure out attacks were about to happen.

"There were indicators out there," Holt said. "There was information out there. But it didn't necessarily get to the right people at the right time so they could put those pieces of the puzzle together. Not all the reporting was done correctly and it didn't get to the right office, but even the commission has said it's really important the right people get that information in a timely manner so they can fit it into the overall picture."

Information gathering by hostiles can be up close and personal instead of at the end of a telephoto lens.

"Another method of surveillance is elicitation of information," Perino said, "which could be in restaurants, bars, or grocery stores."

"You can meet people who seem to have an overzealous interest to find out all about you and yours and your job," Holt said, "and whether that's a beer fest in a local town, or a line in the grocery store, or in a bar or restaurant, you might encounter people who are too keen on getting details."

"It could be about what you do, where you work, how to get a job here," Perino said, "and elicitation of information can be face to face, it can

be via email. You should be suspicious of any email that asks for personal information because they're going to send you something, or it's a new program for GIs and, 'Just fill out this survey.' It could look official, but if you ever get anything like that through email, it's always wise to turn it over to the military police. Let them contact military intelligence so they can find out whether this is a legitimate survey or not. It could also be contact via telephone. People might



Holt

Continued to next page

Force growth, transformation on target

By Sgt. Lorie Jewell

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Army News Service, July 27, 2004) – The Army is on track to temporarily grow the active force by 30,000 Soldiers as it restructures into modular brigade combat team units of action, or BCT (UA)s, Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker said.

Schoomaker discussed troop strength and transformation in a DOD press briefing July 26, pointing out that some news stories have been inaccurate or misleading. He emphasized there is a difference between growing the Army – a temporary measure under the Global War on Terror – and increasing end strength, a permanent part of the Army's core budget. Adding 30,000 Soldiers to end strength could cost as much as \$3.6 billion a year, which would take dollars from other programs, Schoomaker said.

"With our efforts to grow the active component of the Army by 30,000 Soldiers over the next three years, using supplemental dollars, we can do what we need to do," Schoomaker said.

Recruiting and retention are key tools in growing the force, the chief said. The most recent reports on how well goals are being met in these two areas are encouraging, despite concerns about current operations straining the force, Schoomaker said.

In the active Army, the recruiting goal for the current fiscal year is projected to reach 101 percent; the Army Reserve is on track to hit 102 percent and the National Guard, 88 percent. Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard, said the Guard

goal was set high because officials did not expect the high numbers of re-enlistments they are seeing. The Guard's retention rate is currently projected to reach 100.7 per-



PHOTO: Sgt. Carmen Burgess
U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker takes a question during a Department of Defense press briefing.

cent of its goal, with the active Army at 101 percent and the Reserve, 99 percent.

"Counter intuitively to us, we are re-enlisting Soldiers, or they're staying with us, at an unprecedented rate," Blum said. "We didn't calculate for that. And we didn't adjust our recruiting goal, and we won't, because I really want to see what this volunteer force will be able to sustain within the artificiality of raising or lowering goals and numbers."

Lt. Gen. James Helmly, chief of Army Reserve, said he believes Soldiers are staying in because they believe in what they're doing and they are motivated by the transformational changes, which should lead to more predictability about deployments and improved training.

"First of all, there's an element of the service ethic there," Helmly said. "Second, they really get it. They don't question our motives and the need for their being there, and they're proud of what they're doing."

Blum agreed, adding that he sees people volunteering to be Soldiers because they want to defend their country.

"The quality has never been higher than right now and they're stepping forward at a most difficult time ever seen in the 31-year history of the volunteer Army," Blum said.

Blum said he assured state governors they would have up to two-thirds of their Air and Army Guard capabilities at hand to handle state emergencies. Blum said some states have the two-third capabilities when other assets are factored in.

The retention figures are not affected by stop loss, Schoomaker noted, and growing the active force does not include plans to mobilize up to 5,700 Soldiers in the Individual Ready Reserve. The IRR Soldiers will be used to fill vacant positions in the reserve components, which is not unusual in time of war, the chief noted. During

Desert Storm and Desert Shield, more than 20,000 IRR Soldiers were called up, he said.

Of the 5,700 IRR Soldiers who have or will be alerted, Schoomaker said the Army is looking for volunteers before starting involuntary mobilizations.

Schoomaker said a decision on how long the Army will need the additional Soldiers would be made in 2006, when 10 additional BCT (UA)s are expected to be in place. Plans are to create three this year, three in fiscal 2005, and four in fiscal 2006. At that time, officials will decide if the Army needs five additional BCT (UA)s, he said.

"We know we need them now," Schoomaker said of the 30,000 Soldiers. "We don't know if we'll need an Army that large later."

Once the BCT (UA)s are in place, and the National Guard has restructured into 34 units of action, the Army will have between 77 and 83 combat brigades available, Schoomaker said. With that, officials expect to be able to put the active force on a three-year rotation base and the reserve components on a five- to six-year rotation.

Recent financing decisions are helping keep transformation plans moving, Schoomaker said. A few months ago, the Office of the Secretary of Defense put aside \$4 billion to help cover anticipated budget shortfalls, Schoomaker said. With the \$25 million lawmakers allocated last week for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Army remains on track, he said.

"We now can maintain momentum," Schoomaker said. "We feel very good about that."

Stanley takes command of 598th Trans. Terminal Group

By Bram de Jong

Col. Gary Stanley is the new commander of the U.S. Army Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command's (SDDC), 598th Transportation Terminal Group in Capelle aan den IJssel, the Netherlands. During a July 3 ceremony at the 598th Trans Group headquarters he took command from Col. Victoria Leignadier. The ceremony was presided over by Maj. Gen. Ann Dunwoody, Commander SDDC and attended by personnel of the 598th U.S. Army Transportation Terminal Group.

Col. Stanley is not new to the 598th Trans. Grp. (Tml), he commanded the SDDC's 839th Transportation Bn. in Livorno, Italy, 1999-2001. Stanley has previously held staff and command functions in Heidelberg, Germany; Fort Eustis, VA; Ad Damman, Saudi Arabia; and Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Stanley was graduated from the U.S. Naval War College, Newport, R.I. where he received a masters degree in national security and international affairs.

Stanley said he is excited to be back as a member of the 598th Trans Group and looks forward to the challenges that lie ahead.

"Though it has only been three years since I left command of the 839th Transportation Bn. in Italy, a lot has changed in that short time," Stanley said. "The Group has been at the forefront of the war on terror with Col. Leignadier and the 598th team leading the way both here in Europe, and in Southwest Asia for the Strategic Deployment and Distribution Command. I am truly blessed to have been given this opportunity

to work with all of the great men and women who make this command what it is."

Leignadier has said goodbye after commanding 598th Trans Group for the last two years. Dunwoody praised her actions and recognized the extreme challenges Leignadier faced during her command of the 598th Trans Group.

"It is SDDC's mission to provide global surface command and control, and distribution operations to meet the National Security objectives in peace and war," Dunwoody said. "With all the surface movements in support of the Global War On Terrorism, Col. Leignadier brilliantly managed the largest deployment of U.S. material since World War II. She broke every record for speed and volume of material loaded/discharged through a single seaport."

Leignadier also took time to express her thanks to the members of the 598th Trans Group. She also was thankful the great host nation support provided during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operations Iraqi Freedom I and II in Belgium, Germany, Kuwait and The Netherlands. She spent most of her time as commander in Kuwait to lead the 598th U.S. Army Trans Group (Forward) where 562 vessels were discharged and loaded with material to support the combatant commander. In her next assignment she will be the U.S. Army chair and faculty member at the National War College, Ft. McNair, Washington, D.C.

The 598th Trans Group directly supports the areas of responsibility of the U.S. European Command in Europe, the Mediterranean and the Western Part of Africa; the U.S. Central Command in the Middle East and the remainder of Africa; and part of the U.S. Joint Forces Command in the Azores.

The 598th consists of four battalions, two companies and six detachments.

Over here

Do you have family members who fought in the Ardennes, other areas of the BENELUX, or elsewhere in Europe during World War II?

The Benelux Meteor would like to print their stories during this 60th anniversary of the end of the war. Call DSN 361-6031, 068 27-6031, or email meteor@benelux.army.mil



What did you see?

from previous page

get a phone call from people claiming they're from the housing office, or some other official capacity, to ask questions about your quarters or when you're going to be there because, 'We need to come and fix your stove,' or something like that. And then you find that no one in the house has called to report anything."

"People don't realize how often it happens," Holt said, "but somebody may call and ask, 'Is Lydia there?' or, 'I know this isn't

Lydia, but what office is this? Who am I speaking to?' If receiving a call like this, people give out that information without realizing, even though they don't know who's on the other end of the line."

The U.S. Army in Europe operates a program that encourages residents of housing to pay attention to their surroundings to prevent crime and acts of terrorism. The Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program, or SNAP, actively recruits volunteers in the 80th Area Support Group.

"The folks who live in the housing areas are absolutely in the best

position to let us know that something is not quite right," Perino said, "and they have a vested interest, more than anybody else. They should be concerned, and not just for terrorist reasons, but for criminal reasons as well about the people who lurk around the housing area. I think it would be incredibly beneficial if they would organize themselves through the SNAP program, to take turns keeping an eye on the neighborhood."

Perino said people need to learn to look beyond their front yard.

"We really need to train ourselves to look outside the fence,"

Perino said. "Chances are these people who are pulling surveillance are not sitting in our laps. They're on the periphery. So whether you're talking about the housing area or this installation or over at CAB, we need to train ourselves to look out. To look outside the fence line, look outside the yard, outside the immediate area, outside your quarters. Look across the street, look down the street and start to pay attention to what's going on. People who live in that neighborhood are absolutely in the best position to watch out for us."

Perino and Holt recommend reporting suspicious behavior to the military police number in your area. The MPs will then notify the appropriate agencies. MP desk telephone numbers are: on Chièvres Air Base, DSN 361-5301 or 068 27 5301; at NATO Support Activity in Brussels, DSN 368-9769 or 02 717-9769; in Schinnen, the Netherlands, DSN 360-7555 or 31 46 443-7555.

For more information about SNAP, contact Marcia DeVille, SNAP Program Coordinator, DSN 361-6143 or 068 27 6143 or email SNAP@benelux.army.mil.

Hardcore softball



PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

Schinnen third baseman Charles Burson eyes U.S. Del catcher John-Michael Brady for the best spot to tag him out while U.S. Del third baseman Tim Maxwell doubles as base coach and urges Brady to slide. This action was in the sixth game of the 80th Area Support Group softball tournament July 24 on SHAPE, and Schinnen won

that contest 15-3. Powered by five home runs in the final game, Schinnen went on to win the tourney championship by defeating SHAPE Bn. 14-2. Both teams advance to the Army Europe championships Aug. 5-8 in Heidelberg. SHAPE got to the final game by thwarting the advancement of U.S. Del from Brussels 25-5 in Game 7.

Scoreboard

Game 1 SHAPE Bn. 15, Free Agents (Brussels) 9

Game 2 U.S. Del (Brussels) 14, 309th Airlift Squadron 13

Game 3 Schinnen 10, SHAPE 2

Game 4 309th Airlift Squadron 12, Free Agents 9

Game 5 SHAPE 18, Free Agents 10

Game 6 Schinnen 15, U.S. Del 3

Game 7 SHAPE 25, U.S. Del 5

Game 8 Schinnen 14, SHAPE 2

Brussels Community Calendar

ACS - Metro Madness class Aug. 7, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and Aug. 20, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; **Toddler play group** every Tuesday and Thursday through Aug. 26, 10 a.m.-noon, CYS multi-purpose room; **Prenatal classes** available on request, call 02 717-9684; **National School Lunch program** offers free or reduced priced lunches to eligible families, info: 02 717-9698; **ACAP career transition workshop** Aug. 17-18, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Hotel Maisières, register 02 717-9783; **Sponsorship training**, call the ACS Relocation Readiness Manager, 02 717-9729; **Newcomers briefing featuring key agency overview**, Aug. 24, 8:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m., NSA Building 3, command conference room; **Newcomers briefing featuring hospital tour and general information about Belgium**, Aug. 25, 9:25 a.m.-noon, ACS NSA Building 4; **Newcomers briefing featuring local food store info**, Aug. 26, 9:30-11 a.m., ACS NSA Building 4; Info/sign up: 02 717-9783.

NSA Job opportunities - Bar Assistant, NA-7405-2 (flex), open continuous position, announcement number NAF-CHI-OC05; Caterer, NF-1101-3 (flex), announcement

NAF-CHI-040324-A, closed date Aug. 31. Full descriptions for both positions are at the NAF employment section, www.chrma.hqsareur.army.mil. Info: Jean-Luc Clarembau, 02 717-9735 or jean-luc.clarembau@benelux.army.mil; **Automation Services Instructor**, NSA ACS, non-personal services contractor to provide basic computer classes in support of the Family Member Employment Program Sept. 30, 2004-Sept. 30, 2005. Qualifications: minimum post-high school diploma or specific automation certification. Application packets available at ACS through Aug. 12. Deadline is Aug. 12, 5 p.m. Applications must be returned in a sealed envelope to ACS, FMEAP, NSA.

NSA Chapel - NSA Soldier Prayer Breakfast Aug. 12, 7 a.m., free home cooked American breakfast for active and reserve duty soldiers. Info: 02 717-9708.

Outdoor Recreation - Canterbury Aug. 7, 5 a.m.-11 p.m., \$45 adults, \$39 children; **Special surprise trip for Moms**, includes lunch, Aug. 15, 11 a.m.-8 p.m., \$50 adults, \$40 children; **Amsterdam** Aug. 21, 7 a.m.-9:30

p.m., \$40 adults, \$33 children; **Delft Factory Tour, The Hague and Scheveningen Beach**, Aug. 28., \$40 adults, \$33 children. Info: Leon Dillien, 474 68 35 44 or 02 717-9775.

Three Star Lounge - Right Arm Night with free chicken wings while they last, Aug. 6, 5 p.m.; **Parents' back to school bash**, Aug. 28, 9 p.m.; **Movie Night** every Friday, 7 p.m. with free popcorn. New summer hours: Friday 5 p.m.-1 a.m. (open Thursday 7-11 p.m. if Friday falls on a holiday), Saturday 7 p.m.-1 a.m.; Info: 02 717-9822/9819.

Multi-Craft Center - Cross-stitching Wednesday-Thursday 6 p.m., and Saturday-Sunday 10 a.m.; Jewelry making Wednesdays 6 p.m.; Adult basic ceramics Wednesday-Thursday 2 p.m.; Basic ceramics for adults and children Saturday-Sunday 10 a.m.; Basket weaving Wednesday-Thursday 6 p.m.; Wood shop power tools Saturday-Sunday 10 a.m.; Framing classes Thursdays 2 and 6 p.m.; Auto craft classes Wednesday and Thursday 7 p.m. Multi-Craft Center is closed Monday-Thursday during August, open Friday 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and

Saturday-Sunday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Info/sign up: 02 717-9629.

Sports and Fitness - Adult softball tournament Aug. 9-13, BAS; **Ongoing and self-paced Run For Life program**, patches awarded for 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 750 and 1000 miles; **Ongoing individual MEDEX training**. Info: 02 717-9667.

NSA Youth Sports - Coaches needed, youth soccer and flag football, high school football for two week August camp; **Summer football camp (defense) for ages 8-17**, Aug. 9-13, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., BAS; **Bitty Booters Start Smart soccer for 3-4 year olds** starts mid-Sept., sessions are Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 p.m. or Saturdays 9:30-10:30 a.m., \$30 includes soccer balls, shin guards, cones, jersey and parent manual, YS registration and current health assessment required. Info: 02 717-9649.

Child and Youth Services - Camp Adventure continues through Aug. 13, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., daily activities and field trips for grades K-5 and middle school/teens. Info: 02 717-9665.

Library - Story time for 3-6 year olds every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.; **Summer reading program**

for 6-12 year olds through Aug 7; New hours, Monday closed, Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday 2-7 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 12-5 p.m. Info: 02 717-9705.

Consignment Shop - Open Wednesdays and Fridays only 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. through Aug. 31; No clothing consignments will be accepted in August. Info: 02 717-9724.

NSA Food Court - New hours, Monday-Wednesday 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Thursday 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Friday 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Saturday-Sunday 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Info: 02 717-9789.

Installation Volunteer Coordinator - If you have time on your hands, want to do something different and help the community at the same time, become a volunteer for one of our many DCA facilities, programs or special events. You can learn a new skill, help kids, work with computers or teach an art class and put it on your resume. Info: 02 717-9679. For more information about events happening in the Brussels community, visit www.brussels.army.mil.

254th BSB Local Calendar

Army Community Service - Playgroup for toddlers, Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at Schinnen sports center; Infant massage class, Sept. 7, and 21, 10 a.m., at Schinnen ACS conference room; Playgroup for toddlers, Schinnen Sports Center, Sept 9 9:30-11:30 a.m.; OB orientation and prenatal education class, Sept. 21, 10 a.m.-noon, at GK clinic conference room. Info: DSN 360-7500/7367/7355 or 046 443 7500/7367/7335, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. in Schinnen, Building 39.

Andrews Federal Credit Union will be closed Aug. 7 in Chièvres and Schinnen.

Please plan your financial needs accordingly. We thank you for your understanding.

Schinnen Sports and Fitness - Taebo / kickboxing every Monday and Wednesday, 6-7 p.m.; Step aerobics every Tuesday and Thursday, 6-7 p.m.; Body Balance every Thursday, 5-6 p.m. Info: DSN 360-7561 or 046 443-7561, Schinnen Sports Center, Building 38.

Youth Services - Youth in grades 6-8 must be registered, yearly fee is \$15. Info: DSN 364-3595 or 0455 263595, AFNorth, Building H603, Monday-Friday, 3:30-6 p.m. after school; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. non-school days.

Teen Center - Youth in grades 9-12 must be registered as YS members to use the center. There is no cost to register. Info: DSN 364-3595 or 0455 263595, Schinnen Sports Center, Building 38, Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Bowling Center - Cosmic Bowling every Friday, 6 p.m. The center offers 12 lanes with leagues, open bowling, and a youth program. Info: DSN 360-7207 or 046 443-7207, Schinnen Building 40, Closed Monday-Tuesday; open Wednesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Indoor Swimming Pool - Building H605, AFNorth, located next to the Arts and Crafts

Center and the tennis courts:

Monday closed; Tuesday-Friday 4-7 p.m.; and Saturday-Sunday noon-4 p.m. Enjoy the indoor pool or take advantage of a variety of classes. Catered parties and special events are available for a nominal fee. Info: DSN 364-3172 or 045 443-3172.

Motorcycle Safety - BRC class: Sept. 12 and 13, 1 p.m., at Schinnen classroom; Sept. 13 and 14, 7:30 a.m., at AFNorth slag heap training range. ERC class: Aug. 16-17 and Sept. 15, 7:30 a.m., at AFNorth slag heap training range. Instructor needs 3-6 riders to offer class. Info: Wauter Vermeulen, DSN 360-7433, 31 46 443-7433.

CYS fee increase not to affect Army Europe families

HEIDELBERG, Germany - The Army in Europe Child and Youth Services will NOT increase fees for school year 2004-2005. While Child and Youth Service fees will increase by an average of 3 percent across the rest of the Army, families in

Army Europe will continue to pay the current fees.

USAREUR Commanding General Gen. B.B. Bell requested and received a waiver from the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, authorizing USAREUR to transfer the funds to IMA-E to alleviate the fi-

nancial burden of increasing fees in light of the current Army Europe deployments. USAREUR is offsetting the difference by realigning \$2.8 million to subsidize the increase for the Installation Management Agency - Europe Region CYS program.

In Army Europe, the fee structure will remain the same for school year 2004/2005; however, it will be reviewed again for the 2005/2006 school year, in accordance with Department of Defense policy.

"If you move to the States,

parents need to know that the mandated increase does affect all state-side CYS programs," said Sonia Bonet, Child and Youth Services chief for IMA-E. "But here in Army Europe, families will not be affected this year thanks to Gen. Bell's efforts."

SHAPE and Chièvres Community Calendar

Bus schedule changes - The Thursday schedule for the SHAPE/Chièvres shuttle bus has been changed to synchronize with PX and commissary hours. Check bus stops for the new schedule. The entire schedule is under review to ensure it meets customer needs. If you have any comments or recommendations, send them via email to chet.coltharp@benelux.army.mil. Info: DSN 423-4514.

Command to change - U.S. Army NATO invites the public to a change of command ceremony in which Col. Steve Poet will relinquish command to Col. Barry Swain, Aug. 10, 10:30 a.m., at SHAPE sports field. Suggested dress is business attire for civilians and duty uniform for military members. Info: Sgt. John Coakley, DSN 423-4707.

Shape Education Center - *Registration for Central Texas College's programs in criminal justice and early childhood* runs Aug. 9-20. CTC offers CJSA 1313, Court Systems and Practices and CDEC 1319, Child Guidance at SHAPE facility. Registration: Stop by room 112 in the Education Center. *CTC offers "Special Topics In Emergency Medical Technology/Technician" (EMSP 1291.)* The course adheres to the modules in the DOT EMT-B curriculum for updating EMTs and includes a review of basic knowledge and skills required to meet the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician Basic Recertification. CTC info: Vanessa Vines, DSN 423-7447, 065 44-7447, or email vanessa.vines@benelux.army.mil.

Andrews Federal Credit Union is closed Aug. 7 in Chievres and Schinnen.

BOSS - Trip to Majorca, Spain, Aug. 25-Sept. 1, open to BOSS members and all U.S. ID card holders and includes flight and hotel accommodation. Free bus shuttle from SHAPE to and from the airport. Info: DSN 361-5395.

SHAPE Arts and Crafts still offers a variety of classes for children as young as 6 years through Aug. 20. Info: DSN 423-5481.

ACE Adventure Camp is on until Aug. 20. Fun and exiting day trips, two-night tent camping, city trips and lots of entertainment. Sign up at Youth Services: DSN 423-5635. **Youth Services** enrollment is Aug. 9-27. Sign up at Building 209 on SHAPE. Info: DSN 423-3874.

Kennel construction is completed on Chièvres Air Base. The front entrance can be used again. New waiting area, new area for small pets and expanded area for dogs. Open Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., 2-4 p.m.; Saturday 10

a.m.-12:30 p.m.; and Sunday 2-4:30 p.m. Info: DSN 361-5436.

Fitness center on Chièvres Air Base has new hours, Monday-Friday 6 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Vet clinic on Daumerie Caserne has new hours, Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9-



PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

Staff Sgt. Trevor Pedro as Jim, the gentleman caller, dances with Hayley Heiniken as Laura in *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams which SHAPE Entertainment Centre staged in March. For current and future offerings, see the "Entertainment Update" on this page.

11:30 a.m., 1-4 p.m., Saturday clinic once a month. Call to register your pet. Info: DSN 361-5435.

Prime Time Lounge - Special country night Aug. 14, 8:30 p.m., with games, prizes and giveaways. Info: DSN 361-5540.

Army Community Service - Anger management class at ACS, every Tuesday, 9-10 a.m., info, DSN 423-5263; 80th ASG newcomers brief, Aug. 12, 8:30 a.m.-1.30 p.m., free lunch included; Take the Bus, Aug. 12, following newcomers brief; "Take the Train" bus to station leaves Aug. 27, 8.30 a.m., ACS Building 318, SHAPE, how

to use the train system in Europe. Euro 18.50 for adults, Euro 9 for children 6-12 years. Must sign up. Info: DSN 423-4332.

Rendezvous with the French language, Aug. 31, 9:30 a.m., at Hotel Maisières, not a language class but an overview where to learn French in the local community.

National Night Out - Neighborhoods throughout the 80th Area Support Group are invited to join forces Sept. 18 with thousands of communities nationwide for the "21st Annual National Night Out," which is designed to heighten anti-terrorism, crime and drug prevention awareness; generate participation in the Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program; strengthen neighborhood spirit and military police partnership and to send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. The 80th ASG "Block Party Against Crime" is Sept. 18, 1-5 p.m., at the Community Activity Center on Chièvres Air Base. Events include a barbecue pit with refreshments sponsored by the commissary; information and demonstration booths from community organizations; fun activities for children; raffle give-away; appearances by McGruff the Crime Dog and Sparky the Fire Dog; music; and demonstrations by military working dogs and their handlers. SNAP is looking for community organizations that are interested in participating or having a booth. We are also looking for volunteers such as face painters. Info: Marcia DeVille, SNAP Program Coordinator, DSN 361-6143 or 068 27 6143 or email SNAP@benelux.army.mil.

The Exceptional Family Member Program is looking for volunteers for the Benelux troupe of "Kids on the Block," an educational puppetry theater that helps children feel positive about themselves, accept individual differences and learn valuable personal skills. EFMP is in constant need for committed volunteers to help keep this powerful tool alive. Info: DSN 423-7461.

Fun For All Fest on SHAPE is Aug. 28. This year's fest promises to be a final celebration of summer, and will take the blues out of returning to school and work. This year's fest includes participation by the Arts and Crafts Centre, library, special cinema showings, Auto Skills Center open house, athletics, entertainment and music, language center, Pizza Bowl, Trips and Tours, Outdoor Recreation Equipment Rental Center, Youth Services, School Age Services, and Child Development Center. Info: Antonia Anastasopoulou, DSN 423-4269.


Entertainment Update - *The One-act play*

festival has performances Sept. 24-25, Oct. 1-2. One play goes on to Heidelberg to IMA-E Festival. Auditions are Aug. 9-10, 6-7:30 p.m.; Aug. 11, noon-1:30 p.m.; and callbacks Aug. 12, 6-8 p.m. *Knightly Dreams*, a new musical by Ann Andersen has performances Nov. 19-21. Auditions are Sept. 6-7, 4-6 p.m. and Sept. 8, 6-8 p.m. This is the big kids show with several major adult roles. *Love Letters* by A. R. Gurney, a comedy/drama for one man and one woman. Performances are Dec. 9-11, location TBA. *The Food Chain*, a risqué comedy by Nicky Silver. Performances will probably be the end of February or first weekend in March. Auditions by appointment Dec. 9-16. *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, Performances starting and finishing sometime March 10-25 March. Auditions by appointment, Dec. 9-16. *A Few Good Men* by Aaron Sorkin. Performances in late May and the first weekend in June. Auditions April 11-15. *The Entertainment Centre is always looking* for new stage managers, directors, assistant directors, class instructors, etc. If you know anyone who wants to direct, make sure they get in touch. *Salsa at the IC Club* with Cesar and Salina Monday Nights, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sign Up at the Entertainment Centre, Euro 40 for a couple, session card, Euro 28 for a single session card, four classes per session. *Classes August-December* -Lunchtime Adult Playwrighting, noon, Tuesdays, Euro 20 per session; Lunchtime Adult Acting Class, noon, Thursdays, Euro 20 per session; Adult Acting Class, 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Euro 20 per session. Sign Up at the Entertainment Centre. *Children's Theater Classes* will be starting this fall. There will be two classes offered: Thursdays, 4-5 p.m., ages 5-9; and Fridays, 4-5:30, ages 9-15. Students over 15 may attend adult acting classes with a parent's permission. Classes will explore theater games, music and movement and improvisation. Price TBA. Info: Jacque Kilduff, DSN 423-4257.

Chièvres Commissary will be open Aug. 15, Assumption Day, for normal hours, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.


Erratum

The Benelux Meteor issue of July 23 included a story on Page 5 about Staff Sgt. John Thompson winning the title of NCO of the Year for IMA worldwide. We incorrectly stated Thompson is assigned to the 98th Area Support Group. Thompson is actually a provost marshal office desk sergeant in the 80th Area Support Group. The Meteor regrets the error.



Benelux Meteor Deadline and Publication Dates							
Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date
Aug. 9	Aug. 20	Sept. 13	Sept. 24	Oct. 8	Oct. 22	Nov. 8	Nov. 19
Aug. 30	Sept. 10	Sept. 27	Oct. 8	Oct. 25	Nov. 5	Nov. 22	Dec. 3

About Us



The *Benelux Meteor* is the authorized unofficial Army newspaper published under AR 360-1 for 80th Area Support Group personnel. Editorial content is provided by the 80th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office and the 254th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office. Opinions expressed are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 80th Area Support Group. The *Meteor* is published twice per month. Circulation is 3,000. Our mailing address is Benelux Meteor, HQ 80th ASG, Unit 21419, Public Affairs Office, APO AE 09708. Telephone: DSN 361-5419; fax: DSN 361-5106; civilian telephone prefix: 068-27-5419. The country code for Belgium is 0032. Email address: meteor@benelux.army.mil

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- We encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request. Letters regarding an issue should contribute to informational interest.
- We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, safety or force protection issues and to correct grammar.
- Articles in plain text and separate photographic files may be submitted but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor. All submissions should be in electronic form as plain text. We cannot process information in documents such as PowerPoint, Excel or Acrobat.
- Event announcements must use civilian dates and times. Spell out acronyms and include a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. To save space, we cannot reproduce prepared flyers in the Meteor.

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Deadline

Copy and photographs are due by noon 10 calendar days before publication date.

Commanders

Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski 80th Area Support Group
Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson 254th Base Support Battalion
Lt. Col. Jon M. Davis Jr. NATO Support Activity
Public Affairs Officers and personnel
Marie-Lise Baneton 80th Area Support Group
(Vacant) 254th Base Support Battalion
Rick Haverinen Editor
F. Neil NeeleyWriter
(Vacant)Writer

Army loans hardware to Hollywood



Three Arizona National Guard Black Hawks and a Texas National Guard Chinook are used for movie scenes depicting an Army-run refugee camp at the Mexican/U.S. border. The rehearsal shot to establish camera angles for "The Day After Tomorrow" took place at the Indian Cliffs, about an hour east of Fort Bliss, Texas.

By Jacqueline Garrelts

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, July 29, 2004) – When moviemakers have a military angle in the plot, they often come to the Army for help.

The Army has lent its services to boxoffice hits such as "Clear and Present Danger," "Air Force One," "Saving Private Ryan," "We Were Soldiers," "The Sum of All Fears," "Black Hawk Down" and most recently this year's "The Day After Tomorrow."

Writer and director Roland Emmerich of "The Day After Tomorrow" wanted the Army to help out in a movie that showed the Army as a force for good. The turn of the plot would be impossible without the Army coming in for a rescue, he said.

"We jumped on the opportunity, went through the script with the producer and writer to help develop scenarios, and then recommended some necessary changes for the Army's portrayal to keep things as accurate as possible for such a clearly fantasy-based picture," said Maj. Todd Breasseale, an Army liaison officer to the entertainment industry, Office of the Chief of Public Affairs-Los Angeles' Office.

The Army does not accept every project sent its way. OCPA-LA reviews each script, determines with the production company exactly what level of support is requested, and recommends disposition of the project to the Army's chief of Public Affairs.

Once the Army has sent an official request for permission to support a major pro-

duction to the DoD, the special assistant to the Secretary of Defense for audio/visual, if he concurs with the Army's assessment, will approve official support.

The Army also works routinely to support television series. Recent support has included "The West Wing," "ER," "Boston Public," and "JAG." It also helps with made-for-TV-movies, most recently "Saving Jessica Lynch," which was the highest rated television movie for NBC in nearly 12 years.

"The Day After Tomorrow," which was released in May, dealt with a possible impact of the greenhouse effect and global warming. The movie scenario included a worldwide disaster. The plot had tornados, tidal waves and floods resulting in the beginning of a new Ice Age.

The Arizona and Texas Army National Guard provided support for "The Day After Tomorrow" rescue scenes and disaster-assistance segments shot on the Texas/Mexican boarder and the 10th Mountain Division provided support for those scenes shot in Montreal, Canada.

The Army often finds units to help support production, but sometimes the needed equipment has limited availability, leaving a small period of time for shooting scenes. Production teams will juggle and redo their production schedule to accommodate the Army.

Desert scenes in "The Day After Tomorrow" were shot in El Paso, Texas, near Fort Bliss. Some Bradley Fighting Vehicles and tanks were used to guard the movie's "em-

bassy" in a scene built to replicate Mexico in Texas. Being able to feature actual Army vehicles in scenes adds depth and helps make scenes more interesting and realistic, Breasseale said.

"It becomes visually rich when you add things to a scene in a movie that you would otherwise see if you were in a real world situation," Breasseale said.

For "The Day After Tomorrow," a fleet of Chinooks was requested for certain scenes to be shot in Montreal, Canada. Because most of the Army's domestic stocks of Chinooks were committed globally, all but one of the Chinooks featured on screen were computer generated.

Often rescue scenes are shot in front of a blue screen, with background added later, saving a production time and money.

In the case of "The Day After Tomorrow," the Army, with assistance from Fort Drum's safety and risk assessment office and the 10th Mountain Division's A Co., 2-10 Aviation Regiment, helped take a Black Hawk apart to fit in front of a blue screen on an indoor set, which enabled the film crew to shoot scenes of the helicopter from a variety of angles without actually having to move it around in the air.

Two Black Hawks were on standby outside so that the minute filming wrapped indoors, they would be ready to shoot during the critical time in order to capture the take off and landing sequences necessary for the rescue scenes.

The hour before sunset where the light

takes on an orange glow is called "magic hour." When looked at through the camera lens, that light more closely resembles the light that is falsely generated on a set, Breasseale said, making the hour before sunset the most crucial time to shoot outside scenes.

The Army pulled support from the Texas and Arizona National Guard for "The Day After Tomorrow." Soldiers from nearby Fort Bliss and Soldiers recently out of basic training were contacted by their drill sergeant and asked to volunteer on their weekend off to help out in some of the scenes and the majority of these Soldiers ended up being used as extras in the movie.

"Even though it may not be exactly how we would perform the operation, you have to keep in mind what the camera sees and what a director's vision is for what he wants to be on screen. For instance, our Soldiers are usually spread out tactically in further intervals in real operations than they are usually portrayed in many scenes. In order to get all the men to fit in a camera frame, they bunch them up," said Breasseale.

Working with Soldiers from 2-10 Aviation Regiment, Breasseale explained to the film's script writer how helicopters would conduct an aerial evacuation. They also explained how a refugee camp could be run if the Army was in charge.

"Any chance we get to sit with a writer and educate them, we take, because they are just trying to get the script right for an increasingly sophisticated audience," said Breasseale.

Common mistakes writers make include military ribbons out of order on uniforms, qualifications a character could not have received given her branch or gender, or ranks that are impossible to attain in the Army for a character's age.

"We tend to hear the Hollywood version of military-speak on the radio that is wildly different than what we actually hear in real life or even teach our Soldiers in school. There is a lot of Hollywood 'roger that' and 'over and out,' which are two of my pet peeves," Breasseale said.

"A movie that can portray our Army as it truly is – as a positive force for good – or even a picture that can further educate America about a particular aspect of the history of its Army can do a lot to help bolster America's understanding of its Army. If parents with no military background view a well-done accurate movie about the Army, they might consider the Army a good option for their child when she is at an appropriate age," Breasseale said.

Army releases last women from Abu Ghraib

By 1st Lt. Christopher Heathscott

BAGHDAD, Iraq (Army News Service, July 30) - Lt. Col. Don Cronkhite, chief of staff of the 39th Brigade Combat Team, made a promise to the people of Adhamiyan and he was going to follow through.

In early July, a crowd of Iraqis had gathered in a peaceful demonstration at the front gate of Camp Cooke wanting answers concerning the status of more than 80 people detained at Abu Graib Detention Facility prior to the brigade's arrival.

Following a meeting with demonstration leaders, Cronkhite told the crowd, "I pledge - if they are in fact innocent - to work to get them released as fast as I possibly can." He added if there was evidence justifying their detention, Abu Ghraib is where they would remain.

Following days of coordinated effort with military officials, Cronkhite was now ready to make his first and most important delivery on that promise. One of the only two females left in the detention facility. The second female, Huda, the sister of the first, is the next to be released.

"They were very concerned about the women in the group," said Lt. Col. John Edwards, of Little Rock, the 39th BCT staff judge advocate.

Cronkhite said the trip was politically sensitive. Each time a convoy leaves the gate, a certain amount of risk is

taken, but the safe return of this passenger was exceedingly important.

The Soldiers safely transported the detainee to the 39th Brigade Interrogation Facility at Camp Cooke, where Spc. Loreen Davenport, of Little Rock, Ark. gave Nehel a medical checkup.

"She was very appreciative for all we did for her," Davenport said. "She continually expressed how grateful she was for the kindness that we showed to her at the detention center and also in escorting her to her family."

Cronkhite once again found himself sitting across the conference table from the district councilman.

"I promised her sister, as I have promised the people from the [neighborhood council]... that we will continue to work for the release of Huda, and we hope she will be with you very soon."



PHOTO: 1st Lt. Chris Heathscott

A convoy escorted by Task Force 1-206, heads to the Abu Ghraib Detention Facility to follow through on the release of one of the last female detainees in the facility. A break in one windshield, evidence of a previous engagement, served as a reminder that all convoys are considered combat operations.

When the councilman announced his intent to stand up another protest in a week and a half for the release of Huda, Cronkhite said it wouldn't be necessary.

"It is my hope that if we wait a week and a half it will be too late to request her release. She will already be free," he said.

"Shukran Jazeelan," said Nehel as the interpreter turned to translate the response "thank you very much," a term he knew well.

The mission was complete and two days later, Huda was released.

"We feel like that's a good thing for the district council and we think it's a show of good faith by the leadership of this brigade and this division that we are working with the new Iraqi government to demonstrate that we can be counted on to do the right thing," Edwards said.